

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00443 222003Z

41

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4524

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0443

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZ, US E AID

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA: POLICY RECOMMENDATION
AND SPEECH SUGGESTION

SUMMARY: IN CONSIDERING POLICY OPTIONS FOR DEMONSTRATING USG
COMMITMENT TO MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EMBASSY RECOM-
MENDS THAT DEPARTMENT (IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO) EXPLORE
THE PROS AND CONS OF HELPING THE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES. THERE
ARE ALREADY SOME 17,000 NON-COMBATANT REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE
AND THIS NUMBER IS EXPECTED TO INCREASE DRAMATICALLY AS
FIGHTING IN RHODESIA ESCALATES. REFUGEE AID HAS TRADITIONALLY
BEEN POPULAR WITH THE CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC. U.S. CONTRI-
BUTION THROUGH THE UNHCR OR BILATERALLY TO GPRM WOQLD BE VIEWED
BY BLACK AFRICANS AND WHITE RHODESIANS AS FURTHER PROOF THAT
USG DOES NOT INTEND STAND ALOOF FROM PROBLEMS OF THIS AREA.
IF DEPARTMENT CAN MOVE QUICKLY ENOUGH, REFERENCE TO U.S.
WILLINGNESS TO HELP ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES COULD BE INCLUDED IN
SECRETARY'S SPEECH IN LUSAKA.

1. AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS HELD WORKING LUNCHEON APRIL 21 WITH
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SECRET

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00443 222003Z

STAFFDEL BATES AND HUNTER AND UNHCR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

HUGO IDOYAGA AND HIS DEPUTY SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELO TO DISCUSS LOCAL UNHCR PROGRAMS. FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY IDOYAGA, WHO HAS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH REFUGEE PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND HAS EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH FRELIMO AND MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT.

2. IDOYAGA ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE 17,000 NON-COMBATANT ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE TODAY. THEY CONTINUE TO ENTER AT A RATE OF APPROXIMATELY TEN TO SIXTY A DAY. MOST OF THE 17,000 HAVE ENTERED MOZAMBIQUE SINCE APRIL/MAY 1975. UNHCR OFFICIALS EXPECT THIS FLOW OF REFUGEES TO DOUBLE IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, AND TO TRIPLE OR QUADRUPLE AFTER THE ONSET OF THE RAINY SEASON IN NOVEMBER, WHEN THE GUERRILLAS ARE EXPECTED TO STEP-UP THEIR ACTIVITIES.

3. THUS FAR THE BURDEN OF FEEDING AND HOUSING THE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES HAS FALLEN ON THE GPRM, WHICH HAS BEEN RESETTLING THE REFUGEES IN VILLAGES IN SOFALA, TETE AND MANICA PROVINCES. THE UNHCR HAS CONTRIBUTED \$450,000 TOWARDS RESETTLEMENT, WITH UNHCR FUNDS USED TO PURCHASE FOOD, MEDICINE, SIMPLE FARM IMPLEMENTS, TRUCKS AND MATERIALS TO CONSTRUCT HOUSES. THE \$450,000 HOWEVER, DOES NOT BEGIN TO MEET THE NEED AND IDOYAGA ANTICIPATES THAT GPRM WILL SOON LAUNCH A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR UNHCR HELP. HE SAID THE REFUGEES WILL NEED FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICINE AND SEEDS AND IMPLEMENTS SO THAT THEY CAN BE RESETTLED QUICKLY AND PUT TO WORK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. IDOYAGA STATES THAT THE 17,000 ZIMBABWEANS HE IS TALKING ABOUT ARE NON-COMBATANTS, I.E. WOMEN, CHILDREN OR ELDERLY. THE ZIMBABWEANS WHO ARE RECRUITED INTO THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS ARE HOUSED AND TRAINED IN OTHER CAMPS. THE GPRM IS INSISTING THAT ALL ASSISTANCE TO THE LIBERATION FORCES BE CHANNLED THROUGH THE OAU'S AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE OFFICES IN DAR ES SALAAM.

5. AS DEPARTMENT PAYS TO DEMONSTRATE USG SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE, IT OCCURS TO US THAT ASSISTANCE TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES, IN ADDITION TO BEING A WORTHY HUMANITARIAN PROJECT, WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO EXPRESS OUR INTEREST AND COMMITMENT TO
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00443 222003Z

CHANGE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE COULD BE CHANNLED THROUGH THE UNHCR, WITH WHOM WE WORK CLOSELY, OR WE COULD EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE BILATERALLY THROUGH GPRM. EMBASSY WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THE FORMER.

6. EMBASSY REALIZES IT WILL TAKE TIME TO WEIGH ALL THE PROS AND CONS OF THIS PROPOSAL. ON OTHER HAND, WE

MAY WISH TO MOVE FAST

SINCE THERE ARE OBVIOUS BENEFITS TO BE GAINED IF SECRETARY WERE ABLE TO ANNOUNCE IN HIS LUSAKA SPEECH THAT ONE OF THE ELEMENTS IN OUR POLICY TOWARDS SOUTHERN AFRICA IS TO SUPPORT THE ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT NEED NAIL DOWN ALL THE DETAILS. ALL WE HAVE TO DO AT THIS TIME IS TO ANNOUNCE THAT USG IS READY TO EXPLORE WITH UNHCR AND GPRM (AND ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA IF REFUGEES BEGIN TO SETTLE THERE) WAYS WE CAN HELP "THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS TRAGIC STRUGGLE IN ZIMBABWE." WE COULD ANNOUNCE THAT WE PREPARED CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR FOOD, MEDICINE, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR SCHOOLS, HOUSES, HOSPITALS, AS WELL AS SEEDS AND AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT TO FACILITATE SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES ON FARMS. IF DEPARTMENT THINKS THIS IDEA HAS MERIT, SECRETARY MIGHT WANT TO REFER TO SUPPORT WE PROVIDED IN PAST TO MOZAMBICAN AND OTHER SOUTHERN AFRICAN REFUGEES IN TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA, WHICH (WE UNDERSTAND) WAS WELL RECEIVED BY REFUGEES AND BY GOVERNMENTS OF TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA.

7. NO ONE IN GPRM HAS AS YET RAISED MATTER OF REFUGEES WITH EMBASSY. NOR, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, ARE AFRICAN LEADERS SEIZED WITH THIS PROBLEM, OR, ARE MOST OF THEM EVEN AWARE OF MAGNITUDE OF PROBLEM. AID TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES, THEREFOGE, OFFERS USG AN OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE LEAD IN AN AREA WHERE WE HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS, WHICH IS POPULAR WITH U.S. CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND WHICH PROMISES TO BE WELCOMED THROUGHOUT AFRICA.

8 EMBASSY IS VENTURING INTO AN AREA ABOUT WHICH IT DOES NOT HAVE EXPERTISE. NONETHELESS, WE SEE AID TO ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES AS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE MISSED, AND WHICH, IF DEEMED TO HAVE MERIT, COULD CONTRIBUTE TO EFFECTIVENESS OF SECRETARY'S VISIT AND SPEECH.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 MAPUTO 00443 222003Z

9. IN ADDITION TO AID FOR ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEES, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RELEASING SECOND TRANCHE OF FUNDS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES IN MOZAMBIQUE. AMBASSADOR HAS IMPRESSION FROM TALKS WITH AID PRIOR DEPARTURE FOR POST THAT FUNDS HAVE BEEN EARMARKED AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. ACCORDING TO IDOYAGA, THE NUMBER OF MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES WHO HAVE RETURNED FOR RESETTLEMENT IS ABOUT 75,000. AN ADDITIONAL 32,000 REMAIN IN TANZANIA, ABOUT 20,000 OF WHOM MAY EVENTUALLY RETURN TO MOZAMBIQUE. TO DATE, THE UNHCR HAS COMMITTED \$5 MILLION TO THIS PROJECT. THESE FUNDS ARE ABOUT USED UP. AN ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION WILL PROBABLY BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE UNHCR WRAPS UP ITS WORK ON THIS PROJECT. IDOYAGA HOPE THE USG WILL CONTRIBUTE ABOUT \$1 MILLION OF THIS AMOUNT. DE PREE

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